

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 093362
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 PRS-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 CU-02 OIC-02
DHA-02 ISO-00 /064 R

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D:SOXMAN
S/S:SGOLDSMITH
C:RHOPPER
D/HA:CBRODY

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O 260246Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093362

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FIRST LINE PARA 2 (B) OMITTED)

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093362

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE

SUBJECT: IS DRAFT REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 093362

REF: USNATO 2372

1. AT POLADS MEETING APRIL 26 YOU SHOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE
US ATTACHES TO ACHIEVING ALLIED AGREEMENT ON TARGET DATE
ISSUE, AND THAT THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE SATISFACTORILY
RESOLVED BEFORE IS REPORT IS APPROVED.

2. FOLLOWING ARE OUR REACTIONS TO THE SIX ALTERNATIVES MENTIONED REFTTEL, WHICH YOU SHOULD DRAW ON AT APRIL 26 MEETING:

(A) "FOR EXAMPLE, THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS, SUPPORT A TARGET DATE, E.G. CHRISTMAS, WITH TERMINATION TO BE AGREED BY CONSENSUS". WE CAN ACCEPT AS A COMPROMISE. WE WOULD PREFER TO DROP SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CHRISTMAS AS SUGGESTED BY DUTCH, IF THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

(B) "THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS, SUPPORT A TARGET DATE. THE CLOSING DATE IS TO BE AGREED BY CONSENSUS". THIS FORMULATION IS OUR FIRST PREFERENCE, AS IT NOW STANDS. HOWEVER, THE DANES HAVE INDICATED THEY WISH TO ADD THE FOLLOWING PHRASE: "IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE RECALLED THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WILL DECIDE INTER ALIA ON THE DURATION OF THE FINAL MEETING". WE BELIEVE THIS PHRASE IS SUPERFLUOUS, BUT IN INTERESTS OF ACHIEVING ALLIED CONSENSUS, WE COULD ACCEPT IT, PROVIDED IT PRECEDES THE TWO SHORT SENTENCES BEGINNING "THE ALLIES MIGHT" WE COULD ALSO ACCEPT A FORMULATION THAT WOULD REITERATE ENTIRE SENTENCE FROM FINAL ACT ON TASKS OF PREPARATORY MEETING, PROVIDED IT PRECEDES "THE ALLIES MIGHT"

(C) NEW ADDITIONAL FIRST SENTENCE TO PARA 76 AS FOLLOWS:
"THE FINAL ACT PROVIDES THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WILL DECIDE ON THE DATE, DURATION, AGENDA AND OTHER MODALITIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 093362

OF THE MAIN MEETING". REPLACE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 76 WITH: "IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS, WISH TO ESTABLISH AN OPTIMUM DURATION OF APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS. THE CLOSING DATE IS TO BE SET BY CONSENSUS". WE COULD ACCEPT THIS FORMULATION IF THE WORDS "AN OPTIMUM" WERE REPLACED BY "A TARGET". THIS IS OUR THIRD PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR COMPROMISE SOLUTION, BUT YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO US ONLY REPEAT ONLY IF IT APPEARS CONSENSUS ON (A) OR (B) ABOVE IS NOT POSSIBLE.

(D) "IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT A TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MAIN MEETING. THE ALLIES MIGHT, IF THE SITUATION SO WARRANTS, SUPPORT A TARGET DATE. THE CLOSING DATE IS TO BE AGREED BY CONSENSUS." WE BELIEVE THIS FORMULATION INDICATES THAT ALLIES WILL REACH A LATER DECISION. SINCE WE PREFER A FORMULATION WHICH INDICATES ALLIES HAVE ALREADY DECIDED HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE, WE CANNOT

REPEAT CANNOT ACCEPT THIS ALTERNATIVE AT THIS TIME.

(E) IF AGREEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED ON A FORMULATION, DELETE THE FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA 76, WHICH WOULD THEN END WITH THE WORDS "SOVIET BEHAVIOR". WE CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT ACCEPT. THIS APPROACH AVOIDS THE ISSUE WHICH WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE SETTLED IN THE REPORT.

(F) "IN THIS CONTEXT, THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT A TARGET DATE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MAIN MEETING". WE CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT ACCEPT. POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD LEAVE THE ALLIES WITHOUT A UNIFIED POSITION ON A FUNDAMENTAL POINT WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED DURING BELGRADE PREPARATORY MEETING.

3. FOR OTTAWA: IN VIEW OF CANADIAN POLAD'S SUPPORT FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 093362

POSTPONEMENT OF DECISION ON THIS ISSUE (REFTEL), YOU SHOULD MAKE DEMARCHE ALONG LINES OF STATE 87354, AND INDICATE OUR THINKING ON ALTERNATIVES FOR RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE, AS INDICATED ABOVE.

4. FOR BONN AND COPENHAGEN: YOU SHOULD CONVEY PREFERENCES AS INDICATED ABOVE TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

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Message Attributes

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